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The Latter-Day Saints' MILLENNIAL STAR.

HE THAT HATH AN EAR, LET HIM HEAR WHAT THE SPIRIT SAITH UNTO THE CHURCHES.—Rev. ii. 7.

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AUGUST 15, 1850.

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THIRD GENERAL EPISTLE OF THE PRESIDENCY

Of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, from the Great Salt Lake Valley, to
the Saints scattered throughout the Earth, Greeting.

(From the Frontier Guardian, June 12, 1850.)

Beloved Brethren,—When we contemplate your diversified situations, in connexion with the great work in which you have enlisted, it is one of our highest sources of enjoyment for the time to arrive when we can communicate to you by letter, what we would make known by tongue were you with us; and if you, being filled with the same spirit, shall enjoy as much in reading as we do in writing, we shall feel that our labours have not been in vain; for we should thereby have the assurance, that that brotherly love and kindred feeling necessary for the peace and prosperity of the church, are sure and steadfast and on the increase among those who profess to love Jesus Christ.

We are here in the mountains, far removed from the revolutions and daily intelligence of the nations, and have heard nothing from them, or from our brethren who dwell afar, since September: but, though separated from our kindred of Adam's posterity, and dependent a large portion of the time on our own resources for information and enjoyment, we have the pleasing consolation that we are located near "the tops of the everlasting hills," and higher upon the mountains than most other people; consequently we are nearer the heavens, those regions of light and glory from whence we derive intelligence, and from whence all blessings flow.

The welfare of scattered Israel lies near our hearts; it is our theme by day and by night; in meditation, in council, in prayer, in action; we are at home nowhere only as we are engaged in building up the kingdom of God; and it is one of the greatest sources of our joy, to be permitted to be servants unto the Saints, and we ever seek the earliest opportunity to communicate the situation of the brethren in the Valley, and to diffuse that light of which our heavenly Father is pleased to make us the recipients, that we may all be edified and grow up together in the knowledge of God, and be prepared for celestial glory.

Some emigrants from Michigan arrived at this place on the 15th of November, accompanied by Mr. Vasques, bringing letters from the elders then going east, who were at Little Sandy, October 30th, all well: and on the 22nd of the same month, snow covered the Valley from one and a-half to two inches; and on the 24th it was about three and a-half feet in Mill Creek Kanyon: and on the same day, Elder Parley P. Pratt, with a company of about fifty men, left the most southern settlement of this Valley, where they had rendezvoused the day previous, for the purpose of exploring the south country, to learn its geography, history, climate, and locations for settlements.

Nineteen emigrants arrived December 1st, in a very destitute situation, having left their wagons more than forty miles back, and their teams about twenty; themselves without provision. They reported having left the States on the 24th September, and having passed Elder Taylor's company at Independence Rock, November 6th; but so closely were they pressed by the snow, they did not bring us one newspaper, though they said they had many in their wagons.

An express was sent by Captain Stansbury, of the United States Topographical Engineers, stationed at this place, to Fort Hall, some time in December, but so deep was the snow it was obliged to return, without accomplishing its object, and business generally was suspended in the Valley during this month, though a few milder days near the last, permitted the raising of the roofing timbers of the council house, which had been prepared in the Bowery, which has been occupied as a great work shop during the cold weather.

On the 5th of January, Captain Stansbury sent a second express to Fort Hall, which accomplished its mission, and returned after a tedious journey, together with the paymaster and some other officers of the U. S. Army from Fort Hall, who reported but little snow in the vicinity of the Fort, but immense quantities on the route; and that a large portion of Government cattle, at Cache Valley, had died through the severity of the weather and snow, which fell in this Valley from ten inches, to two feet deep on the 18th and 19th, and in some of the adjoining Kanyons six or eight feet deep. On the morning of the 24th of the same month, a terrible wind swept over our Valley from the south, and continued about twenty-four hours, driving all animals before it, the snow being so deep and light as to be subject to its influence, piercing through the thickest clothing, causing men to seek shelter in the house, and cattle to gather in hollows, and under cliffs, where, in some instances, they were buried, suffocated, and frozen in heaps.

The snow having commenced somewhat earlier than usual, found the brethren nearly destitute of wood, and about the time last mentioned, it was reported in the city, that fifteen sleighs were buried in the snow in Dry Kanyon; but in the evening, the men and teams came into the city all safe. The facts were, the brethren had passed the Kanyon in the morning, and while loading their sleds on the mountain side, an avalanche or slide of snow came down on their track, and filled the Kanyon, some fifty or sixty feet deep, and prevented their passage; but by leaving their wood, and making a pass on the side of the mountain, drivers and teams were all saved. We mention this as one of the pleasures, inconveniences, or casualties that the Saints in the mountains are liable to experience, when they have not provided their winter's wood in the summer; and the snow has been from six to twenty feet deep in our Kanyons a great share of the past winter.

On the 30th of January, four men arrived from Fort Bridger, having left their goods and remaining pack animals in Weber Kanyon, a portion of their horses having died on the way before reaching the Kanyon. This was the second attempt of the same company to pass from the Fort to the Valley, and their goods remained in the Kanyon on the 30th of March.

During the past season, the winter weather has been longer by four or five weeks than the season previous, and more snow, but not so severely cold, and the prospect for grain is good. It is generally believed that there is as much good looking wheat now on the ground, as grew here last year: and there are large quantities of the best California and Tous wheat ready for sowing. There are also large quantities of California barley, a valuable article, and many other choice seeds, which will greatly enhance the farming interest the present season: and no exertion will be wanting on the part of the brethren here, to raise food for those who may come to the harvest.

The snow in the Valley was nearly dispersed in the latter part of February; but frequent falls since, and night frosts through the month of March, prevented ploughing to any great extent, till near the first of April, when the earth was bare. Spring rains began to fall, and the farmers began to improve the cheering return of seed time, in the confidence of an abundant harvest; and we would still urge upon the brethren, who have choice and rare seeds, to bring them with them, for although there are a great variety of seeds in the Valley, there are many good varieties on

the earth which we have not yet obtained; and if we had abundance of the white Silesia, or choicest kinds of sugar beet seed, at this time, there would be no necessity of our importing sugar and molasses after the present season, for the vegetables of the Valley are richer in sacharine matter, than in any other place of our acquaintance.

As we anticipated in our last letter, about sixty families, under the presidency of Patriarch Isaac Morley, left this place in October, and commenced a settlement at Sanpete (Sand-pitch) Valley, one hundred and thirty-four miles south. They have suffered many inconveniences through the deep snows, and severe frosts, for want of houses and other necessaries common in old settlements, and have lost many of their cattle; but they have laid the foundation of a great and glorious work, and those who persevere to the end in following the counsel of heaven, will find themselves a thousand fold richer than those who have made gold their counsellor, and worshipped it as their God. Their cattle, now living, have been sustained by their shoveling snow from the grass, and feeding them with their provision and seed grain, and we have sent them loaded teams, to supply their necessities until after seed-time.

They have been surrounded by a tribe of Indians who appear friendly, and who have suffered much from the measles since they have been among them, and many have died, as have also most or all of the tribes in the mountains; and those who live, urge the brethren to remain among them, and learn them how to raise grain and make bread; for having tasted a little during their afflictions, they want a full supply. There is plenty of fire wood easy of access; some of the best of pine. Bituminous coal, salt, and plaster of Paris at this settlement, or its immediate vicinity.

The Utah Lake Indians, have been very troublesome for a long time; and even before the pioneers arrived in this Valley, we were told by all the mountaineers we met, that "they were bad Indians, and that we could not live near them in peace, and that other clans of the Utah nation did not like them." On acquaintance we found all these statements true; and particularly since our last communication, they have been very hostile, killed many scores of our cattle, stole horses, waylaid and shot at the brethren at Utah, until self defence demanded immediate action.

Their doings were presented to Captain Stansbury, also the paymaster and such officers of the U. S. Army, stationed at Fort Hall, as were here at the time, and they were unanimous in their decision, that it was necessary that those Indians should be chastised and that it belonged to the U. S. troops at Fort Hall to do it; but the snow was so deep, the troops could not come hither; therefore, it became necessary for the citizens to proceed against them, which they did, advised by all, and accompanied by some of the said national officers; when a portion of the Indians entrenched in a deep ravine, covered with thick brush, near Fort Utah, fought desperately two days, the 8th and 9th February, with the loss of several of their warriors. One of our brethren was killed, and a few wounded, who have since recovered: after a few more skirmishes, in which none of the brethren were killed or wounded, peace was restored.

There are many tribes of the Utah Indians, or many clans of that tribe, from whom we have heard, and they appear satisfied with our course, and say, "*It is good, the Lakes were bad Indians;*" and there is no probability that the remaining Utes will offer any further violence at present, and we hope never.

Elder Pratt returned about the middle of February with a part of the exploring company, and left the remainder with the teams in Yoab Valley, the snow being so deep oxen could not travel but with much difficulty a portion of the way. They all arrived in safety about the 28th of March. The company went south more than three hundred miles, and over the rim of the Basin, into the borders of the Valley of the Colorado, passing trackless mountains, covered with deep snow, and followed by excessively cold weather, the mercury in several instances falling 20 degrees below Zero. They found some small valleys, with little or no snow, warm and pleasant, desirable for settlements, one of which is Little Salt Lake, where we design a settlement the present season. Good water, iron ore, and wood are abundant. Little, comparatively, could be learned of the vegetable or mineral productions of

the country through which they passed; but they saw enough to know that popular geographers have hitherto known less of its prominent features. Suffice it to say, there is yet room in the valleys of the mountains for all who can be contented with honest industry, peace, and seclusion.

On the 22nd of February, the shock of an earthquake was sensibly felt in the Valley, to a great extent, causing houses to jar, and crockery and furniture to move considerably. The report of volcanic eruptions, or commotions of the earth, resembling the discharge of distant cannon, are not unfrequent in the mountains.

The health of the Saints in general is good, and there has never been any prevailing sickness in our midst, and but very few deaths. Since last mail brothers Absalom Perkins, George W. Langley, Erastus Snow's eldest son, Claudius V. Spencer's wife, sisters Jane Hall, Turley, Steward and Thompson, are all we recollect, and those mostly from consumption and other symptoms of disease contracted long before they came to the Valley.

The General Assembly of Deseret have held an adjourned session, at intervals, through the winter, and transacted much important business, such as dividing the different settlements into Weber, Great Salt Lake, Utah, Sanpete, Yoab, and Tuille counties, and establishing County Courts, with their Judges, Clerks and Sheriffs, and Justices and Constables in the several precincts; also a Supreme Court, to hold its annual sessions at Great Salt Lake City, attended by a State Marshall and Attorney, and instituting a general jurisprudence, so that every case, whether criminal or civil, may be attended to by officers of State, according to law, justice, and equity, without delay.

They have also chartered a State University on the most liberal principles, to be located at Great Salt Lake City, with branches throughout the State, if wanted; and appropriated for its benefit five thousand dollars per annum, for twenty years, out of the public treasury, all of which will be under the supervision, direction, and control of a Chancellor, twelve Regents, Secretary and Treasurer, who will, no doubt, publish their intentions by this mail.

On account of the severe weather, little has been done on the public buildings since last fall. The foundations of the public store house and store are laid, and the aqueducts, from the warm spring to the public baths, are rapidly progressing, and they will be ready for use in a short time.

Captain Stansbury, with his topographical engineers, are surveying Great Salt Lake, and the adjacent country, for the purpose of mapping, which, when completed will unquestionably be very interesting to our friends abroad, for by it they will better understand our relative locations.

Many brethren having gone to the Gold Mines, and many are about going, and all "by counsel," as they say, and, no doubt, truly. A few have gone according to the advice of those whose right it is to counsel the Saints, and such are right, inasmuch as they do right; but much the greater portion have gone according to the counsel of their own wills and covetous feelings. Such might have done more good by staying in the Valley, and labouring to prepare the way for the reception of the brethren; but it is not too late for them to do good and be saved, if they will do right in their present sphere of action, although they will not get so great a reward as they would have done had they performed the greater good.

If, at the mines they will listen to the counsel of those men who have been appointed to counsel them, and when they return work righteousness, and do as they would be done unto, and acknowledge God in all their ways, they may yet attain unto great glory; but if they shall cease to hearken to counsel, and make gold their god, and return among the Saints, filled with avarice, and refuse to lend, or give, or suffer their money to be used unless they can make a great speculation thereby, and will see their poor brethren, who have toiled all the day, in want and in perplexity, and they will not relieve, but keep the dust corroding in their purses, it had been better for them if a mill stone had been hanged about their necks, and they had been drowned in the depths of the sea, before they had departed from the right ways of the Lord; for if they shall continue thus to harden their hearts, and to shut up their bowels of compassion against the needy, they will go down to the pit with all idolaters, in a moment they are not aware, with as little pity as they have

manifested to their poor brethren, who would have borrowed of them but have been sent empty away.

Gold is good in its place—it is good in the hands of a good man to do good with, but in the hands of a wicked man it often proves a curse instead of a blessing. Gold is a good servant, but a miserable, blind, and helpless god, and at last will have to be purified by fire, with all its followers.

Elders Amasa Lyman and Charles C. Rich will continue their operations at Western California, according to previous instructions, and not only keep an accurate account of all tithings and of the general proceedings of all faithful brethren, that we may know of their good works, and hail them as brethren when we meet, but keep a perfect history of all who profess to be Saints and do not follow their counsel, pay tithing, and do their duty, and report the same to us every mail, that they and their works may be entered in a book of remembrance in Zion, that they may be judged therefrom, and not impose upon the faithful; for it is not uncommon for men to say, "I can do more good if I go to the mines, than I can to stay here," and we want to prove such, and know whether they are true men or liars.

When men, professing to be brethren, go to the mines according to their own counsel, we want them to stay until they are satisfied—until they have obtained enough to make them comfortable, and have some to do good with, and a disposition to use it for that purpose, and not run back here in a few months, lock up their gold, boast how much they have made, doing no good themselves, and hindering every body else from doing good over whom they have an influence; curse God, deny the Holy Ghost, and when spring opens, run to the mines again, as some have done. Let such men remember that they are not wanted in our midst; for unless they speedily repent, the wrath of an offended Creator will suddenly overtake them, and no power can stay it. Let such leave their carcasses where they do their work, we want not our burial grounds polluted with such hypocrites; but we have it in our hearts to bless all men who will do right, whatever their occupation, and our arms are ever open to embrace such, and we pray for all men who are ignorant, or out of the right way, that our Heavenly Father will give them his spirit, that they may learn and do right.

To those who may fear coming to the Valley on account of the scarcity of timber, we would say, there is now four times more timber known within reasonable distance of this city, than there was one year since, and every season opens new stores of wood, in the surrounding mountains; and all the difficulty is the scarcity of help to remove the wood and timber to the Valley before the falling of snow; beside, coal has been discovered, from whence it can be brought on a railway, easily constructed, and there is more, and nearer, in prospect.

Furnaces and forges are much needed here, for the furnishing of mill irons, machinery, farming utensils, culinary vessels, railway tracks, and many other things, and we hope that Elder Pratt has already sent on men, who will be here to start the business this season; if he has not, we trust he will not lose sight of this important object against another winter.

Elders Orson Pratt and George D. Watt are wanted at this place, with their families; and we shall expect them as early in 1851, as circumstances will permit.

At such time as Elder Pratt shall find it convenient or necessary to facilitate his return, he will call to his assistance Elder F. D. Richards, who will succeed him in the Presidency of the church on the British Isles; and we would suggest Elders George B. Wallace and Levi Richards for his counsellors. So far as we have been informed, Elder Pratt has done a great and good work in England, but his labours are now needed at home—and if the Saints should mourn his loss, we would say, be comforted and come with him, or follow him as fast as you can; but if you cannot at present, you will find in his successor, Elder Richards, a counsellor, president, and friend, and worthy of your prayers and confidence.

Elders Wilford Woodruff, and Amasa Lyman, are expected here this season. We anticipate a visit from Elder Orson Hyde, who, we hope, will bring a host of Saints with him; for the labours of the Valley are great, compared to the number of labourers. A greater harvest is near at hand than there will be reapers to gather. Let those who start, be prepared to come through without assistance from the Valley,

for we shall have no men to spare during harvest to help emigrants. Companies are already organized and ready to start for Green and Platta Rivers, to keep ferries during the high waters, for the accommodation of the emigration.

We would urge upon all Saints the importance of keeping in view the Perpetual Emigrating Fund, and of adding thereto, all in their power the present season; for every succeeding year will be more and more eventful in the progress of the work of God, and more and more Saints will be ready, and want to gather to Zion. We warmly anticipate that such will be the interest felt, and the funds collected in the British Isles, that we can commence bringing forward the Saints from that region, one year hence; and the Presidency in England will take special care to be ready to act on future instructions on this subject.

Elders of Israel be faithful in your calling, feed the sheep, feed the lambs of the flock, and proclaim the gospel in all simplicity, meekness, and love, whenever you have the opportunity as it shall be given you by the power of the Holy Ghost which you will always have for your counsellor if you are faithful; and let all the Saints give diligent heed unto the counsel of those who are over them in the Lord, upholding them by the prayer of faith, keeping themselves pure and humble, and they will never lack wisdom from above, and by faith and works search out your way to Zion.

Several elders have been appointed missions to England, Scotland, the Society Islands, the States, and Western California, as will be seen by the minutes of the General Conference, of the 6th of April, to which we refer for particulars concerning any business then transacted.

We are happy in saying to all, that a brighter day is dawning on the intellectual prosperity of Zion, that the University recently established by the State of Deseret, bids fair to accomplish the object for which it was instituted; that it is under the supervision of faithful and intelligent men, who will consider no labour too great, to carry out the wishes and greatest possible good of those for whose benefit the institution was founded; and we earnestly solicit the co-operation of all the Saints, and particularly the elders in all nations, to gather, as they may have the opportunity, books in all languages, and on every science, apparatus, and rare specimens of art and nature, and every thing that may tend to beautify and make useful; and forward or bring the same to the Regents of our University, for the benefit of all such as may hereafter seek intelligence at their hands.

Brethren, farewell. May the blessings of heaven and earth be multiplied unto you, and your hearts be warm to receive and improve upon the same in righteousness, and the time hasten that we may meet you in this land of peace, is the constant prayer of your brethren in the gospel of Jesus Christ. Amen.

BRIGHAM YOUNG,
HEBER C. KIMBALL,
WILLARD RICHARDS.

Great Salt Lake City, Deseret N. A., April 12, 1850.

AN EPISTLE OF PRESIDENT ORSON PRATT, TO THE SAINTS THROUGHOUT GREAT BRITAIN.

Dear Brethren,—Through the blessing of a kind Providence I have been preserved to once more meet with the Saints in the British dominions. I have been absent from you about four months, during which time I have performed a lengthy, though pleasant, journey to Council Bluffs, on the extreme western frontiers of the United States. The facilities for travelling within a few years past, have increased to such a degree, that it seems apparently to have decreased the distances upon the surface of our globe. To cross the Atlantic, and travel some two thousand miles into the interior of America, would have once been considered quite an undertaking, but now it is only a pleasure excursion. The power of steam seems to have almost united the two continents into one. In less than three weeks the servants of God can go from St. Louis to Liverpool—a distance equal to one-quarter of the circumference of the earth. They may well be termed, in the language of Isaiah, “the swift messengers to the nations.”

It has fallen to the lot of the Latter-day Saints to live in one of the most momentous ages of the world—an age in which wickedness reigns predominantly upon all the face of the earth—an age in which God has determined to rend in pieces and overthrow all the governments and kingdoms of the world, and establish his everlasting kingdom in the hands of his Saints, who shall bear rule under the whole heavens. For about six thousand years the inhabitants of our world have displayed their wisdom in the establishment of various forms of human government; but wickedness has triumphed among them all. The wicked have had their day for rule, but it is now drawing swiftly to a final close. Their sun is setting no more to rise: a long night of darkness awaits them. God has set his hand to turn and overturn, and to give the kingdom unto his Saints—to redeem the earth from oppression and violence—to consume the wicked as chaff, that righteousness alone may be exalted.

To bring about this great change in govermental affairs, one of the most important revelations that have ever saluted the ears of mortals, has been given, namely, the **BOOK OF MORMON**. It is sent forth as a last message to the nations of the wicked; it is sent to establish a kingdom which shall break in pieces all other kingdoms; it is sent to gather out the righteous from all nations, and establish them in one; it is sent to fulfil the times of the Gentiles, and bind up the law and testimony among them, that if they will not repent, they may be delivered over unto destruction; it is sent to gather Israel from their long dispersion; it is sent to make known the gospel in greater plainness and fulness, that contentions upon doctrine may cease, and the watchman of Zion see eye to eye; it is sent as the great preparatory work for the second advent of the Son of God; it is sent that the Saints may know the signs of the times, and not be in darkness, and that great day come upon them unawares.

When this message shall have been proclaimed to all nations, the Son of God shall come to sit upon the throne of his power and reign for evermore. Already twenty years have elapsed since the setting up of the kingdom of God; the proclamation has already been sounded in the ears of many nations; tens of thousands in America, in Great Britain, in the Isles of the Pacific, and in various quarters of the globe, have received the glad tidings, and with penitent contrite hearts have been baptized preparatory to the coming of the Great Bridegroom. Already tens of thousands have gathered out from the United States, Great Britain, and the Islands of the sea, unto the vallies of the mountains in North America; there they are building cities, temples, and public buildings, converting the fertile vallies into gardens, and vineyards, and well-cultivated farms, spreading themselves abroad into all the surrounding country. Where before resounded the warhoop of the savage, and the howling of wild beasts, now are heard the voice of civilization, and the melodious songs of the righteous.

Let the poor afflicted Saints in this land cheer up their drooping spirits, for they shall in due time be gathered; if they cannot obtain means in this land, they shall be helped from afar; for the Lord will surely deliver His people, and no power can stay His hand. Already a sound of deliverance begins to be heard from a distance. Hark! It is a voice from the mountains. It is not a voice of savage triumph; it is not the voice of tyrants, clad with terror; it is not the voice of a nation bowed down with oppression; it is not the voice of mourning and lamentation: but it is the voice of freedom, rejoicing in the high places of the earth. Behold her standing on yonder mountain tops, clothed with celestial light. With outstretched arms to the nations, and with a voice of lovely compassion—she calls. Listen! she calls to the Saints in affliction; she invites them to her dwelling place. Her voice is heard! see the Saints arise: see mighty ships waft them o'er the main—see countless numbers track the western plains; the everlasting hills re-echo with their songs. Lo! a vast multitude assembled, enrobed in garments pure and white; They pray—the heavens listen—the powers above are marshalled. All things prepared—the Saints return to Zion, the Lord goes before the camp—the nations fear and tremble; **ZION IS REDEEMED**, and becomes the joy of all the earth. Praise ye the Lord.

Our latest news from the Salt Lake Settlements was dated the 12th of April. All things were then prosperous in the Valley. They were ploughing, sowing,

planting, and making every preparation for an abundant harvest. Tens of thousands of emigrants for the mines, together with immense numbers of horses, mules, and cattle will pass through the Valley this season, which will afford a ready market for all the provisions that can be spared. Large quantities of merchandise, both in dry goods and groceries, are being taken by the merchants to supply the demands of the country; they are paying forty guineas per ton for the transportation of goods from the Bluffs to the Valley. The Lord is truly beginning to favour Zion, and to abundantly supply all her wants, although he takes his own way to accomplish it. Oh! that the Saints may not forget the Lord in the days of their prosperity. How great are the responsibilities resting upon them! and how fearful the consequences of abusing the privileges and blessings bestowed from heaven!

Elder Woodruff, with most of the Saints from the eastern and middle States, is now crossing the plains. It is judged that our emigration to the mountains this season will amount to some three thousand souls, taking with them from 800 to 1000 wagons. The Saints who still tarry at the Bluffs are generally poor, but they are in a rich and fertile country, and with perseverance and industry will soon be able to pursue their journey over the plains, leaving the country for others of their brethren who may come on and wish to tarry there for a season. There are some three or four thousand Saints in St. Louis, who are apparently doing well, much better than the poor in England. At this present time there seems to be in America a feeling of friendship and good will towards the Saints in almost every quarter. Our poor find employment sooner than any other class of people; they have been proved and found trustworthy; hence they are sought after in preference to others. The Lord has seen the afflictions of his people, and softened the hearts of that nation towards them for a season. How long this friendship will continue we know not: it cannot be long; for the nation has rejected the message of heaven, and they must be rejected of God; they will from time to time harden their hearts against the people of God, and will desire their destruction, but God will deliver them out of their hands.

About two years have elapsed since I was appointed to preside over the Saints in this land. I have endeavoured, during the time, to inform myself concerning your condition, and to offer such counsel as I thought best adapted to your circumstances. If, in the multiplicity of business which has pressed my mind, I have at any time erred, it has not been intentionally. It has been my constant prayer and study to know the will of God concerning you. It affords me great pleasure to know that the churches have greatly flourished since I have been in your midst, and that many thousands have been added to your numbers. Peace and union have also prevailed in almost every branch; while the Holy Spirit has been abundantly poured forth upon you, as is evident from the miraculous manifestations of the healing power, together with numerous other blessings enjoyed throughout the land. These tokens of the goodness of God towards his Saints are calculated to make the faithful servants of God rejoice.

The wise and judicious management displayed by the presidents of conferences, and the travelling elders under them, has been the principal means in the hands of God in extending the cause of truth in the British Isles. The extensive circulation of the printed word has also given an impetus to the rolling of the great wheel of salvation. Strictness of discipline in plucking off dead branches—in purifying the church of corrupt members—and in laying the axe at the very root of every species of wickedness, has also had a powerful tendency to strengthen and confirm the meek and humble, and to enlighten the eyes of the honest inquirer.

Let the presiding elders of every conference endeavour to inform their minds relative to the condition of every branch under their respective jurisdictions. See whether your flocks are in a healthy condition or not. The Lord has made you the shepherds over his sheep: if you lose the sheep, or suffer them to perish through your neglect, they will be required at your hands. Teach the presidents of branches to look diligently after all the members. Counsel them to enforce strict discipline, and to root out all backbiting and evil-speaking one against another; for this is a great evil, and tends to quarrels, divisions, strifes, apostacy, and death. If the backbiter or evil-speaker will not, after proper admonitions, reform and cease his

evil practices, let fellowship be withdrawn from him, and let all know that the church of God is not the place to injure and devour one another. If any officer or member under your charge be found teaching or practising unvirtuous doctrines, let him be dealt with strictly by the law of God; and if the president of a conference shall transgress, or teach or practice any iniquity, let the same be reported to us, accompanied with the proper evidences; and if one of the Twelve, or the president of the Saints in Great Britain, shall transgress the law of virtue, and teach or practise unrighteousness, let the presidents of conferences inquire into the same, and collect the testimonies thereof, and forthwith transmit the documents unto the First Presidency at head quarters, that all may be dealt with according to the law of heaven. The time is come when too much light and knowledge have been given to the Saints for them to suffer themselves to be imposed upon by men who are carried away with their lusts. And we say, in the name of the Lord, that the displeasure of heaven shall overtake the adulterer unless he speedily repent, and his name shall be blotted out from among the people of God. "Woe unto them that commit whoredoms, saith the Lord God Almighty, for they shall be thrust down to hell." Woe unto them who shall betray the confidence reposed in them, and shall make use of their authority to seduce and lead astray ignorant and silly women, for, except they repent, their authority shall perish quickly like the dry stubble before the devouring flame. Woe unto them who lie and bear false witness against their brother or sister to their injury; it were better for them that they were sunk in the depths of the mighty ocean than to offend the children of God. Woe unto them who steal, for their deeds shall be made manifest, and justice and judgment shall lay hold on them in an hour they think not. Woe unto them who love slander, and will not cease to speak evil of their brother and sister, for they shall be hated of God and man, and their hopes shall wither away and perish. Woe unto all those among the Saints who shall turn from their righteousness and do iniquity, for the great day of the Lord is at hand, and their portion shall be among hypocrites and unbelievers.

Let the Saints sanctify themselves both in body and spirit, that the Holy Ghost, with all its accompanying powers and gifts, may be more abundantly manifested; for the destroyer is abroad in the earth, and the Saints must live by faith. But, how can we have faith, if we neglect the counsels of wisdom which God has ordained for our preservation?

The time is drawing near when I shall leave you and go to the Valley with my family, according to the request of the First Presidency, as will be seen in their late epistle. But be assured, dear brethren, that the expressions of unbounded confidence, which the Saints have everywhere manifested towards me, will ever be cherished by me with a grateful heart. I shall ever look upon this short period of my life as among the happiest days of my pilgrimage. And if I have been a humble instrument in the hands of God of benefiting any of His Saints, or of advancing His cause in Great Britain, it will afford me great and lasting consolation when far hence in other climes.

The Saints in this land are dear to my heart; I have seen their toils, their hard labours, and oppression, and my heart has mourned over their afflictions. I have loved them because of their sincerity in receiving the message of truth which God sent his humble servants to proclaim: I have loved them because of their strong desire to work righteousness and hearken to the counsels of heaven: I have loved them because of their faith and love to God and His truth; I have loved them because they have loved me: and when I see their poverty and sufferings, my soul yearns over them, and my eyes are filled with tears. In the fulness of my heart I cry to thee, O my Father and my God. I ask thee, O God, to look upon these, my brethren; behold, how they have sorely toiled these many years, while their children have cried for bread; behold them, O Lord, bowed down in sorrow, under heavy burdens imposed upon them by their cruel taskmasters, and when thou lookest, O Lord, upon these great afflictions of thine own children, let thy bowels be moved with compassion towards them; let salvation and deliverance come speedily: defer not, lest thy people fall under the heavy yoke and perish. O Lord, thy people in this land have become a great people, but this is not their resting

place—their eyes and their whole hearts are towards the mountains of Zion—the land which thou hast ordained for the habitations of the righteous in the days of trouble. Glorify thy name, O Father, in working out a speedy deliverance for this great people, that they may rest during the remainder of their days from the hard bondage, wherein they have been made to serve. Gather this people together, that they and their children may learn thy ways more perfectly, and walk in thy paths, and no more be led astray by the vain and foolish traditions of the Gentiles: yea, O Lord, save thy people for evermore.

I shall probably leave England the latter part of next winter, or early in spring, and perhaps sooner; but I rejoice exceedingly that I can leave you under the presidency and watch-care of one of the Twelve, namely, Franklin D. Richards, whose former labours in this country are well known and highly appreciated by the Saints. His unwearied diligence in the cause of truth—his godlike dignity of deportment, combined with a mild and amiable disposition—his sterling virtue and integrity, united with a superior intellect, enriched with the wisdom and knowledge of heaven—have eminently qualified him for the dignified and highly responsible station of presiding over the numerous churches which will soon be entrusted to his charge. Brother Richards will act in conjunction with me as my counsellor while I remain in this country; and it is to be hoped that through our united exertions we may be humble instruments in advancing the great cause of truth in this part of the Lord's vineyard.

Some of the presiding elders have been rather negligent in teaching the law of Tithing according to the counsel which we have heretofore given. Every president of a conference should see that every member of the church of whom tithing is required, is correctly instructed in regard to his duty upon this subject; urge upon them the necessity of strict obedience to this requirement of heaven; it is as essential as any other requirement; no person can be justified in neglecting the counsel which has been given upon it; no person will prosper who undertakes to cheat the Lord, and slip off to America with his property and money, without paying in this land the tenth thereof. The Lord has commanded and man must obey; for justice and judgment is the penalty of disobedience; therefore we exhort the Saints to obey the law of tithing; obey it strictly with cheerful hearts; obey it without delay. I have already borrowed upwards of £200 over and above the tithing I had on hand, to forward nails, glass, and other temple property to the Valley: this was necessary in order that they might be forwarded this season, that the great work might not be delayed. The amount borrowed must be within a few weeks refunded, therefore we call upon the presidents of conferences to see that every person who should pay tithing attends to this duty immediately, that there may be funds in the Lord's store-house to fulfil the purposes specified in the revelations and counsels of heaven. Teach those Saints who have property, and who will not exert themselves to obey this law of heaven, that the Spirit of God shall begin to withdraw from them, and the hand of the Lord shall be against them, and they shall cease to prosper in their business transactions, and a curse shall be upon the labour of their hands, and unless they repent they shall wither away like a branch plucked from the vine.

The Perpetual Emigration Fund must also be kept in view; and the Saints should be thoroughly instructed as to the importance of doing all within their power for the enlargement of this fund; it is established especially for the benefit of the poor, to be appropriated according to the instructions which shall from time to time be given by the First Presidency. Let all the arrangements and counsels which have, during my absence, been laid before the Saints by brother Franklin D. Richards, in relation to the collection of this fund, be faithfully complied with. Let the treasurers of the conferences forward to our office immediately the amount of funds which they have on hand, accompanied with a list of the names of the contributors, the amount each contributes, with the name of the branch and conference in which each resides. After this instruction has been fulfilled, the treasurers will thereafter make quarterly remittances and reports to us, namely, on the 1st of October, 1st January, 1st April, and 1st August. As our office will not be responsible only for the funds which actually reach us, we shall, if necessary, publish

from time to time the names of all contributors, with the amount contributed, (with the exception of those who may request us to do otherwise.) This will have a tendency, in some measure, to detect any dishonesty on the part of the treasurers. We hope, however, that among the Saints no dishonesty will be found to exist, and that every man will be faithful and punctual in all things entrusted to his charge. We also say to all the Saints, let none of the Emigration Fund be used for any expenses whatever, but let all expenses incurred in purchasing cheap account books for the treasurers, or in any other way, be settled by the branches, independently of this fund.

Mechanics of every description are greatly needed in the Salt Lake country. Furnaces, forges, glass works, potteries, manufactories of cotton, of linen, of wool, are greatly called for. Let the presidents of conferences seek diligently in every branch under their respective jurisdictions for wise, skilful, and ingenious artizans, mechanics, manufacturers, potters, &c. Counsel those of them that have means, to go immediately to the Valley; and counsel those who have not got means, to use every exertion to obtain means and be in readiness when called for, if funds should be appropriated for their assistance; and remember the maxim, that the Lord will help those of his Saints who will seek diligently and honestly to help themselves. The presidents of conferences have many duties to perform in relation to the temporal salvation of the Saints as well as spiritual, let them not, therefore, become dilatory in relation to this counsel. We urged these things upon you months ago in many of the Stars, and we humbly hope that you have not forgotten subjects which we esteem of such vast importance for the welfare of the children of Zion. If you can find men of capital who have never been engaged in the manufacturing business, but who are willing to invest their capital in the establishment of such business, teach them that it is their privilege so to do, and that they shall be blessed with an hundred-fold in this life, besides having the satisfaction of seeing hundreds of thousands of Saints benefitted by their manufactures. Let the Saints in Great Britain arise with one heart and mind to perform the great and mighty work which is before them, and the Lord their God will bless them, and strengthen their hands, and enable them to perform wonders in his name. They are called to do great things; let them not, therefore, be faint-hearted nor disengaged, for God is with them.

With feelings of love to all the Saints, and with an anxious desire for your welfare, I subscribe myself your brother in the kingdom of Christ,

ORSON PRATT.

15, Wilton Street, Liverpool, July 23rd, 1850.

The Latter-day Saints' Millennial Star.

AUGUST 15, 1850.

There has recently appeared above the intellectual horizon of the Latter-day Saints, wandering among the "Stars" of their firmament, a certain meteoric production, called by some poetry; by others better acquainted than we are with its claim to that title, it is pronounced neither poetry, verse, nor prose; indeed its author does not call it by either of those names, but "LINES." Such meteoric productions are calculated to injure the sight of careful intelligent observers, unless they are prepared with glasses adapted to the occasion, insomuch that they sometimes turn away in disgust, especially if their first observation of our heavenly truths is directed towards that object. If it were created of correct matter, and organized upon true principles of natural science, it would not produce so disastrous effects upon its beholders, but would serve to strengthen the vision, elevate the understanding of the observer, and commend the general principles of the society to which its author belongs.

Moreover, nearly one fourth part of the elements of its organization was composed by another gentleman, which is the most scientific and truthful in its appearance, yet no credit is awarded: this, to say the least, is quite uncourteous on the part of an author. On the whole, we do not believe the church of God will be subserved by the circulation of such publications, but that the intelligent of any society in Great Britain would feel disgraced thereby; and we wish the author, with all others concerned therein, to prevent any further circulation thereof. It is advisable, and our special counsel, that no publication containing the doctrines or sentiments of the Latter-day Saints, be suffered to go to press in England, Scotland, Ireland, Isle of Man, or the Channel Islands, without a manuscript copy thereof being first forwarded to the Presidency of the British Churches (accompanied with the wishes and designs of the person intending to publish it) and his or their permission being given to the same being published, except only the privilege of Branches and Conferences to issue their Bills for Meetings, lists of the standard works of the Church which they may have on hand for sale, and conference minutes. It will always afford us special pleasure to second the judicious exertions of any person or persons in disseminating the principles of Truth; and we are anxious to promote by all laudable means the cultivation of the talents of our brethren; and we desire them generally to stir up the various gifts which are in them by the laying on of the hands of the Elders, and all gifts which heaven has kindly endowed them with; but when we come to publishing, it should be recollect, that it is not for the present only, but will stand for future years, and how careful all should be not to publish any thing that might be regretted in a time to come!

GENERAL CONFERENCE.

A General Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will be convened at Manchester on Saturday and Sunday, the fifth and sixth days of October, commencing at ten o'clock in the morning. The Presidents of Conferences throughout Great Britian are particularly requested to attend. Those of the Twelve who are on the Continent are respectfully invited to be present if it would not interfere with the great and important duties of their missions.

ORSON PRATT,
F. D. RICHARDS.

EMIGRATION.

(*From the Frontier Guardian, June 12th, 1850.*)

We have attended the organization of 350 wagons of Salt Lake Emigrants up to Saturday 8th inst., Capt. Milo Andrews is a-head with fifty wagons. Next follows, Capt. Benjamin Hawkins with one hundred; Thomas S. Johnson, Capt. of 1st Division, and—Capt. of Second Division. We left them at Council Grove 12 miles from Bethlehem west of the Missouri river, on the morning of the 7th inst. Next in succession is Bishop Aaron Johnson with a train of one hundred wagons; Elisha Everett, Capt. of 1st Division, and Matthew Caldwell, Capt. of the 2nd Division. Next in order is Capt. James Pace with one hundred. Richard Session, Capt. of 1st Division, and David Bennett, Capt. of 2nd Division. The Emigrants are generally well fitted out with wagons and teams, provisions, &c.

There are some wagons quite too heavy. Those brought from St. Louis are good, but too heavy. A heavy wagon with a stiff tongue is unsuitable for the journey. Let no person hereafter buy a wagon for this trip unless its tongue has a joint in the hounds forward of the axletree. Light wagons that will bear from sixteen to twenty hundred pounds, are the most suitable for this service. These

heavy lumber concerns should be left here, and not used by our people, neither by anybody else, unless they choose.

The number of California wagons that have crossed at this point, is about 4,500 averaging 3 men to the wagon, making 13,500 men, and about 22,000 head of horses, mules, oxen, and cows.

Our own emigration to Salt Lake Valley will amount to about 700 wagons as nearly as we, at present, can determine. They take two new carding machines in addition to one sent last year, besides much other valuable machinery. They also take about 4000 sheep and 5000 head of cattle, horses, and mules.

With the facilities for improvement that are already in the Valley, and those that are now going, we may expect to see that hitherto desolate region, growing rapidly into importance, and consideration. Success to the West, and to Western enterprise, to Western men and measures! "Let the Wilderness and the solitary place be glad for them, and the desert rejoice and blossom as the rose."

LETTER TO PRESIDENT F. D. RICHARDS.

Belfast, July 17th, 1850.

Dear Sir,—I improve this opportunity in addressing a few lines to you, knowing you feel a thrilling interest in the spread of the principles of truth and salvation in Ireland. I arrived in Belfast, in company with Elder Lindsay, on Thursday, June 20th. We found the Saints in a very dead lukewarm state, the branch being completely broken up during the last six months: they were wandering about like sheep without a shepherd, having no guide to lead them in the way of eternal life. We have succeeded, however, in bringing the Saints together; and, after much preaching and teaching, they are beginning to awake from their lethargy, and to feel and enjoy the sweet influences of the Spirit of God.

One great disadvantage this branch has had to contend with is, in not having a public place of worship; but I am happy to inform you that this has been removed, as we have taken a commodious chapel in King Street, formerly occupied by the Baptists, which we opened last Sunday, and announced the same by placarding the town. It was well attended, especially the evening service, and on the next morning we had the pleasure to administer baptism to two, who, I have every reason to believe, will be promising members in the kingdom of God. There is one grand cause why the gospel has not taken firm hold in this country, namely, many who have been sent to preach the gospel have done many things so incompatible with our most holy religion, that their conduct has had a most baneful influence upon many who were examining our doctrines. Oh! how careful should every officer of this church be to walk worthy of the high vocation wherewith they are called, as ambassadors for Christ Jesus, with delegated power to administer the laws of the kingdom of God! Belfast is a large, influential, commercial town; it is a stronghold of many of the leading sects, and their clergy are some of the most talented in christendom, who are much admired for their erudition and eloquence, and the mass of the people are blindly led by their various teachers, without ever stopping to examine their principles or articles of faith. But of late, through the dreadfully divided state of the clergy, and the recent disclosures of priesthood and its concomitant vices, the people are beginning to see the state of apostate christianity.

I have visited a small branch of the church at Hyde Park, a village six miles from Belfast. There are seven members, including two priests, all in good standing, and rejoicing in the work of God. We have held several good meetings, which were well attended, and I have no doubt, if followed up, will result in a great amount of good. There is another branch at Kilachey, ten miles from Belfast, consisting of six members, including one priest, all in good standing. Belfast branch numbers 33 members, including 4 elders, 3 priests, 1 teacher. We can scarcely find out one-third of the Belfast branch, it has become so scattered and disorganized. I am actively engaged in getting subscribers for the STAR. Indeed I fondly hope that a better day is about to dawn for Ireland, and my heart beats high with the hope that thousands of her brave sons and fair daughters will soon

come to the knowledge of the principles of salvation and peace, which God grant.
Amen.

Present my kind love to Elder Kelsey, Brother Linforth, and accept the same
yourself.

Yours in the kingdom of God,

GILBERT CLEMENTS.

IRELAND.

This country has long been an oppressed nation, and for a few years past has been the scene of appalling judgments, such as famine, unto starvation, and pestilence, that has threatened an entire depopulation of certain portions of the Island.

These became the welcome messengers of relief to thousands who were lingering out a hopeless existence as to any thing better in this life. Bound up the greater part in papal authority, and subject in many parts to immediate expulsion from their tenanted homes, if they ventured to change their religious opinions, it has hitherto been very difficult to establish the doctrines of present revelation among that people. At several different times efforts have been made in the vicinity of Belfast, and a few have been added to the Church, a part of whom were turned out of employment because of their faith, and were obliged to flee to England for subsistence.

In the early part of June last, Elder Edward Sutherland of London, was set apart to go to the land of his nativity and if possible establish the everlasting Gospel in Dublin and its vicinity. While signal displays of God's power have been frequently manifested among His people in other portions of Great Britain, many of the Saints have looked upon Ireland with pity; and wishfully wondered when her noble sons and daughters would be aroused from their slumber of ages and come up to the help of the Lord against the mighty, receive again that life which has been hid with Christ in God, and engage in the establishment of Zion in the last days.

From an acquaintance with Elder Sutherland, and the good work which he performed in London, great confidence is entertained of his success in Ireland. His charity toward God and his fellow men, his energy of character, and determination of purpose, coupled with a life of exemplary conduct, admirably qualify him for this labour of love to his countrymen. We bid him God speed; may he rend the veil of darkness and bring many to the light of everlasting life.

Cotemporary with Elder Sutherland's departure for Dublin was that of Elders John Lindsay and Gilbert Clements for Belfast, intelligence has been received from the latter, of their favourable reception. They have succeeded in opening a commodious Chapel in King Street, where divine service is regularly attended, two have been added to the Church by Baptism, and prospects quite encouraging. May they realize much of the Holy Spirit in their labours, and bring many souls from the power of Satan unto God. With these brethren in the north, and Elder Sutherland in the metropolis, it is earnestly hoped the present may prove the dawning of a better day to the seed of promise in the Emerald Isle.

F. D. RICHARDS.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

July 9th, Norgesgade, Bredgade, 196, Copenhagen, Denmark.

Dear Brother,—By request of brother Snow, I take my pen to address you a letter, to acknowledge the receipt of the STARS you so kindly sent us. We received three packages the same day—the one sent last by mail cost one Danske dollar (two shillings), the others came free. We were glad to get them, and thanked you for so much STAR-light in this land of darkness, where priestcraft and superstition has held uninterrupted sway for so many years. We are all well, for which we thank our Father in heaven, and most sincerely hope that you, with all at 15, Wilton Street, are enjoying with us the same great blessing. We have not yet made much stir among the people (before the public) in consequence of our limited knowledge

of the Danish language, we are, however, learning very fast, and brother Snow says he will have me up preaching in about a week more; you will, however, hear from us from time to time. The prospect here now is quite as good as could be expected under the circumstances in which we are placed. The people are beginning to take some interest in what we say, and many families are inviting us to visit them, indeed the invitations are coming in faster than we can fill them, and many are beginning to hear the words of the book, and the poor to rejoice in the Holy One of Israel. Brother Hanson is not slack in his duty towards his nation, but is earnestly engaged for their welfare. As to the Baptists here, of whom brother Snow has written, they are growing in the grace and in the knowledge of the truth; the presiding elder is our friend, and I think in a few days more he will be our brother, and with him we expect many of his flock. Since writing you, brother Snow has visited a little branch of his church in company with him. He told his flock who brother Snow was, and the nature of his mission, which they received with great pleasure, and seemed ready to embrace brother Snow as a deliverer sent from afar to bring salvation to those that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death; and so may it be is our most sincere desire and prayer in the name of Jesus. Amen.

As to political matters you can get all the news by the English papers without our writing. The parliament adjourned last week to meet again in October next. The Holstein question is not yet settled, and I think will not be soon. The Danes are all that I thought they were—a very polite and noble-hearted people. We have received a letter from brother John Forssgreen; he is at his father's place and was well. He had opened his mouth in the cause of Zion, and wished us to say to you, if any letters, &c. come to your office for him, please send them to the care of Capt. Barrgs Enka, 113, Firsta (or 1sta) Quarteret, Geffle, Sweden.

In haste I close by imploring the blessing and protection of our heavenly Father upon you and the STAR, that it may illuminate the benighted path of many honest souls. Please give our best love to all at Wilton Street, and to the Saints in Liverpool, generally.

Yours respectfully,

G. P. DYKES.

ITEMS OF NEWS.

THE PACIFIC RAILROAD—WONDERFUL DEVELOPMENTS OF RESOURCES IN THE PLAINS AND DESERTS.—The greatest impediment to the construction of a railroad from the Mississippi, overland to the Pacific, has been considered to be in the nature of the country over which the road must be carried. From twelve to fifteen hundred miles, in the selection of any route north of Mexico, must be traversed over plains, mountains, and deserts, without timber, without population, without materials or supplies, and thought to be without anything to contribute to the support of the road, short of the Pacific. This has been justly considered the most formidable drawback to any enterprise of such magnitude that has ever presented itself in the history of the world—this timberless, mountainous and desert region of from twelve to fifteen or seventeen hundred miles.

But a recent discovery near the foot hills of the Rocky Mountains, of a prime article of commerce and cash, opens a mine of capital on the way. It appears that there is no longer any doubt of the existence of inexhaustible supplies of cannel coal near the sources of the Nebraska or Platte river, which is the route of the overland emigrants to California, via the South Pass, the Salt Lake, and the Great Basin. The destitution of timber in the great plains, were there no substitute for fuel, would render them incapable of settlement, even to cattle raisers: for there the snows are deep and the winters cold. The coal supplies the fuel—it also supplies an article of trade with the Mississippi river, and will thus contribute to colonize the plains, and to the sale of the public lands along the route to settlers, who will soon produce all the necessary provisions for the workmen.

It is known, also, that iron is found from the frontiers of Missouri to the Rocky Mountains; and with the coal on hand, the means are on the ground for the manufacture of the rails required. Of the wonderful capacities of the Mormon Valley